



7 AUG 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Intelligence

SUBJECT: The World Whale Population

1. The attached memorandum is in response to Mr. Helms' request for a statement on the effect of whaling activities on the population of large whales.

2. The memorandum points out that excessive catches by the Soviet, Japanese, and Norwegian whaling fleets are causing all species to diminish. Although the sperm whale is not yet approaching extinction, the blue and humpbacked species are, and their chances for survival are not great. Interestingly enough, the decimation of the humpbacked whale is due largely to the activities of whalers operating from shore stations in New Zealand and Australia.



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Acting Director
Economic Research

Attachment:

"Effect of World Whaling on the
Population of Large Whales"